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*The UK's first atheist summer camp for children opening this year is already fully booked with four enquiries for every place. It's called Camp Quest, and has come to the UK from the US with the help of Britain's leading atheist, Richard Dawkins. Keith Adams reports:*

'It's beyond belief!' is the **motto** of the organisation, which was **set up** in the United States **to counter the influence of** faith-based summer camps run by the Scouts and church groups. But the Director of the camp in the UK, Samantha Stein, says its purpose is not **to spread atheism** - rather to encourage thinking:

Samantha Stein:

The idea of Camp Quest is really to let the children decide what they think. So we're going to run some activities on philosophy for children. And we'll run activities on **logical fallacies**. So it's really a way of getting the kids interested in thinking, interested in philosophy and questions of religion and all sorts of scientific and critical thinking.

One of the games played at Camp Quest is called the Invisible **Unicorn** Challenge. Campers are told that unicorns live in the area around their tents, and are then asked to prove that they don't exist. The aim is to illustrate the difficulty of **proving a negative**. But any children who **manage the feat** will win a ten pound note signed by the author of The God Delusion, Richard Dawkins, whose money also helps fund the camp.

Keith Adams, BBC

## Vocabulary and definitions

<b>motto</b>	a short catchy phrase that expresses a belief or purpose of something or someone
<b>set up</b>	founded, created, born
<b>to counter the influence of</b>	here, to provide strong alternative ideas to
<b>to spread atheism</b>	to convince more and more people that God does not exist
<b>logical fallacies</b>	invalid arguments, or arguments with mistakes in reasoning
<b>unicorn</b>	an imaginary white horse-like creature with a horn growing from the front of its head
<b>proving a negative</b>	finding and presenting reasons to show that something is not true
<b>manage the feat</b>	are able to complete this difficult task

More on this story: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/somerset/8123263.stm>

**Read and listen to the story and the vocabulary online:**

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/language/wordsinthenews/2009/06/090701\\_witn\\_atheist\\_camp.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/language/wordsinthenews/2009/06/090701_witn_atheist_camp.shtml)